बाद में मैं बुला लूंगी । एक समस्या हमारे सामने है I put it before the House that हमारे फारेन मिनिस्टर साहब यहां बैठे हैं । उनको एक स्टेटमेंट करना है उसके बाद उन्होंने लोकसभा में जाना है। अगर हाउस की यह इच्छा हो कि वे स्टेटमेंट करके लोकसभा में चले जाएं, जवाब दे करके स्पष्टीकरण करके तो उसके बाद I will allow one or two Members who were left and who wanted to raise an issue.... (*Interruptions*)... He has to go to Lok Sabha because he has got some work there. थोड़ा एकोमोडेशन हो जाने दीजिए ।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : We have to seek clarifications on the statement.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN (Tamil Nadu) : Madam, what happened to the Industrial Policy which has been shelved ? (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let him make the statement. The Minister is here and I have Special Mentions also. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : It has been pending for the past ten days. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let us finish one business. (*Interruptions*).

KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA (Maharashtra) : Madam, I am also raising a point. You fixed up 5 o'clock for Special Mentions. I am not against the hon. Minister's making a statement and thereafter the hon. Members seeking clarifications. Since morning we are waiting for the Special Mentions to be taken up. I want to know about the Special Mentions. Thereafter, the Industrial Policy statement is to be taken up.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let the statement be over. Then we will have the Special Mentions. Then we will take up the Industrial Policy. I wanted to have it at 5 o'clock but things happen unexpectedly because the Minister has to go to the other House. So we will take it up. Thank you very much for being accommodative. (*Interruption*).

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra) : Madam, after the statement of the Foreign Minister, let us take up the Industrial Policy.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let us first have the Foreign Minister's business and then the Members can express their views and we can go accordingly.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Bihar) : Madam, when we are discussing the Industrial Policy today ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I cannot give you the time. Let me finish the statement. After that there are Special Mentions. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Because you are also coming every day and we are also coming every day to discuss it. We are sitting unnecessarily for this. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You should be coming every day even otherwise. I would like the Industrial Policy also to be discussed today. It is the last day. The Minister is here. Let us finish the business one by one.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Are we discussing it ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : From the Chair, we want to discuss it. It is entirely up to the Members when they want to discuss it.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation in Gulf

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : Madam, the august House will recall the statement I had made immediately after my return from a visit to Moscow, Washington, Amman, Baghdad and Kuwait in the context of the Gulf crisis. That visit was made primarily due to our deep concern for the welfare, security and well-

[Shri I. K. Gujaral]

being of the large Indian community that lives and works in Kuwait and the Gulf.

In Kuwait and Iraq, the situation has deteriorated since my visit. The position regarding essential services including water and electricity and the telephones and medical supplies and treatment is not satisfactory. Continuing fuel shortage remains a cause of concern. While the Indian associations in Kuwait continue to run common kitchens, the availability of rations has seriously decreased. In fact, the Iraqi authorities have informed us and other Asian countries which have sizeable number of their nationals in Iraq and Kuwait that they will not be able to make arrangements for rations for members of their community and that this will have to be done through the import of food.

This general deterioration in condition has resulted in the lowering of the morale of Indian nationals. Hence the desire for repatriation has increased which has obliged us to take corresponding action to augment the facilities available for repatriation.

Regarding repatriation of Indian nationals there is until now only one route available, namely from Kuwait via Baghdad to Amman by road and thereafter by air to India. In response to the vastly increased demand, we have gradually stepped up the rate of repatriation. Currently five aircraft of Air India are repatriating from Amman approximately 1500 passengers per day. This is planned to be stepped up to 2300 in another day or two and subsequently it would be further increased to 3500 per day. This is of course subject to the necessary over flight clearances being received for all these additional aircraft. The intention is that some of the aircraft will fly direct from Amman to India while others with a shorter haul capacity will separately fly on the sectors Amman—Dubai and Dubai-Bombay. For repatriation purposes, we have also pressed into service two passenger vessels, the M. V. Akbar and the M. V. Tipu Sultan.

So far a total of about 22,000 Indian nationals from Kuwait have been repatriated. While doing our best to step up repatriation, we have continued to emphasize to the Indian community through the media and though direct contact that they should not panic or be stampeded into hasty departure and that they should leave Kuwait only after the backlog of those to be repatriated from Amman and Baghdad is cleared and after the rate of repatriation by the only route available is enhanced. At present there are in Amman approximately 5000 Indian nationals and another 15 to 16 thousand are camping on the Iraq-Jordan border. A further 8000 are located in Baghdad and Basrah awaiting repatriation. It is our hope that all those in Amman and at the Iraq-Jordan border will be successfully repatriated in another ten days while those who are already in Iraq can be repatriated during the following few days.

I would like to express here our sincere appreciation for all that the Government of Jordan has done to look after the Indian nationals who have been coming to Amman in sizeable numbers for repatriation. They have helped the Embassy to set up camps, to arrange transport and to look after them during their transit halt with food as well as medical care. With such large numbers involved, there have naturally been some problems. We have taken action in an attempt to solve these problems. 67 tonnes of food have already been despatched to our Embassy in Jordan, and we have approved expenditure of Rs. 1 crore for the despatch of further food, medical supplies and tents, during the coming days by air as a gift to the Government of Jordan. This, we hope, would go some distance towards relieving the burden which the Jordanian Government is bearing. For repatriating the nationals of Asian and African countries.

Several State Governments have also extended generous assistance in the repatriation facilities accorded to those from Kuwait. They have provided transport from the airport to the railway station for the onward journey, transit accommodation, if necessary, as also transport facilities further upto the destination of the repatriates. They have given cash relief to those who needed it on arrival. Arrangements have also been made to admit children of repatriates in the schools by both the Central and State Governments.

The major problem, as I have mentioned is the supply of food and medicines to our people in Kuwait and Iraq. Following my

discussions in Moscow, Washington, and Baghdad, we had decided to send a ship load of food to alleviate the food shortage faced not only by our nationals, but by all nationalities. We took this decision on the basis of the clearcut provision in the U.N. Security Council resolution (661) that medical supplies are not subject to any restrictions and that food for humanitarian purposes can be supplied. In our view in the context of the present general shortage of food supply, all food supplies serve a humanitarian purpose. We, therefore, approached all those with maritime forces in the area so as to ensure safe passage for food shipments. It was a matter of deep concern, therefore, when we were categorically told not to proceed with the shipment of food, that food is not in such short supply as to have acquired humanitarian dimension and that food shipment will not be allowed to pass and will be interdicted by the naval ships deployed in the region. We are convinced that the resolution is not subject to differing interpretations. Indeed there are several member states of the U.N. who share our view. In the letter that I addressed to the U.N. Secretary General, I informed him of the developing food shortage in the area, which is causing immense misery to Indian nationals there, and of our decision to despatch a food ship. I also impressed upon him the urgent need for mounting an international effort to alleviate the human suffering arising out of food shortage in Kuwait and Iraq.

Since this problem is assuming serious proportions with each passing day, yesterday I addressed a message to all five Permanent Members of the Security Council apprising them of the seriousness of the situation, and urging them to assist and support us in the initiative that we are taking in consultation with other similarly placed countries, for getting a suitable decision taken by the Security Council to put in place urgently arrangements for supplying food to our nationals. Simultaneously we have asked our Permanent Representative in New York to consult these countries with a view to taking such an initiative in the Security Council.

Madam, I have to report that there has been some delay and even departures form the assurances given by the Iraqi authorities in implementing the agreement reached during my visit to Baghdad, on which I had earlier reported to the House. Of course, the most disconcerting development has been the position taken by them that repatriation from Kuwait and Iraq itself, which is most convenient, will not be permitted until the aircrafts or ships deployed for repatriation brought food in the inward or outward journey as the case may be. For example, we had suggested aircrafts to bring repatriates directly from Kuwait, Basra and Baghdad to India. But the Iraqi authorities have taken the view that unless the same aircrafts brought food from India to Iraq, this would not be permitted. The same condition has been applied to passenger ships that could go to Iraqi ports for evacuation purposes. Proposals for hiring Iraqi aircrafts from Iraq and deploying them for direct flight from there to India have also not materialized so far, precisely for the same reason and due to the same conditionality. I have addressed a detailed message to the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Iraq conveying to him our concern at these developments which have immensely added to the stupendous problem that we are facing in repatriating our nationals from Iraq and to the sufferings of the members of the Indian community who have now to undertake the arduous journey overland to Amman before they can be repatriated.

I have to report with regret that the political and military situation in the Gulf has been fast deteriorating. Tension is mounting and the process of escalation continues unabated. The build-up of foreign military forces in the region is continuing uninterrupted. If no action is taken to halt this drift and find a negotiated settlement to the problem, the possibility of a military conflagration cannot be ruled out. This will have disastrous consequences not only for our region, which is a neighbour of the Gulf area, but also for the whole world. Over the medium and long range the continuing tension in the Gulf region is likely to lead to further militarization of South Asia, thus endangering peace and stability in this region.

It is imperative in this situation that diplomatic derivatives hould be taken to

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

try to resolve the crisis. The importance of the Non-Aligned Movement taking an initiative in this regard is all too evident. Mainly at our suggestion, Yugoslavia, the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, has decided to establish a Group of three countries consisting of Algeria, India and Yugoslavia and has convened a meeting of the Group at Belgrade on the 11th of this month. I will be going to Belgrade for this purpose.

At the same time, we are continuing our consultations with other Governments who are involved in or are playing role in the context of the Gulf crisis. The Special Envoy of the Emir of Kuwait was in Delhi this week and extensive discussion with us on the various aspects of the crisis. A Special Envoy of the President of Egypt will be here in a couple of days, and we are looking forward to exchanging views with him also. Apart from this, we have continued exchanges at diplomatic levels both in New York and here with the representatives of the Permanent Members of the Security Council as well as with those of other Members. We are also in touch with the envoys both in New York and Delhi of other countries having large expatriate population in the area and facing similar problems.

Madam, in a complex situation like this it is difficult to provide ready-made answer. But there seems to be consensus on at least some of the measure that must be taken. And these are : renunciation of military solution to the problem and working for a political solution; withdrawl by Iraq from Kuwait and the restoration of its sovereignty and independence; a reversal of the foreign military presence in the region; and above all, a commitment by the international community to mount a concerted international effort, without further delay, for solving the humanitarian problem of ensuring safety, security, well being and repatriation of foreign nationals trapped in Kuwait and Iraq and arranging or food supplies for them. Thank you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have a number of names with me for clarifications. Dr. Abrar Ahmed Khan. I would request every Member, not only you but everyone, to be very precise. There is no need to repeat because it is a long statement.

DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN (Rajasthan) : I will ask only two points. सबसे पहले मैडम, मैं माननीय मन्त्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि हमारे देश के जितने भी लोग कुवैत और इराक में फंसे हुए हैं, उनके रिश्तेदार या घर वाले यहां बहुत ही चिंतित हैं और वह हर प्रकार से यह जानने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि वहां वह लोग किस स्थिति में हैं। तो उसके लिए क्या हमने अलग-अलग प्रान्तों में या प्रान्तों की राजधानियों में और दिल्ली में ऐसे कोई केन्द्र बनाए हैं जिससे कि यदि वे अपने घर वालों की स्थिति या सूचना या कौन लोग कब आ रहे हैं, उसके बारे में जानकारी चाहें तो हम दे सकें ? यदि ऐसा नहीं किया है तो मंत्री जी इस संबंध में कब तक व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं ?

मेरा दूसरा बिंदु यह है माननीया उपसभापति महोदया, जैसा मैंने पहले भी सदन में इस बात को उठाया था कि आज जो खाड़ी के अंदर अमरीकी सेनाओं का जमघट हो गया है और जिससे भारत की सुरक्षा को एक बहुत बड़ा खतरा पैदा हो गया है और अमरीकी सेनाएं ही नहीं, उन अमरीकी सेनाओं के साथ सम्मिलित होने के लिए पाकिस्तान के भी 5000 सैनिक वहां पहुंचे हैं। शायद उसमें से पहला दस्ता 3000 का था जो पहुंच गया है और 2000 का दूसरी इस्टालमेंट में जाना था, शायद पहुंच गया होगा या रास्ते में होगा। पाकिस्तान से हमारे देश की टकराव की स्थिति बनी हुई है, बराबर वह हमारे देश में आतंकवाद को भड़काने में मदद कर रहा है, उन्हें हथियार दे रहा है और दूसरी तरफ वह खाड़ी के अंदर अमरीकी सेनाओं के साथ मिलकर इक्ट्ठा होकर काम

कर रहा है । तो अमरीकी सेनाओं से, जो भारत के दरवाजे तक आकर खड़ी हुई हैं, पाकिस्तानी सेनाएं भी उनके साथ हैं, भारत की सुरक्षा को बहुत बड़ा खतरा हो गया है। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं, क्योंकि इस वक्तव्य में इस संबंध में कोई स्पष्ट बात नहीं कही गई है, कि उस खतरे से निपटने के लिए, उस असुरक्षा की स्थिति से निपटने के लिए भारत क्या कर रहा है ? क्योंकि पहले तो दियागो गार्सिया तक भी हम नहीं चाहते थे कि वहां पर भी कोई विदेशी सेना आए, लेकिन आज दियागो गार्सिया की बात तो बहुत दूर है, उससे भी नजदीक दे सेनाएं हैं । तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस खतरे या असुरक्षा से निपटने के लिए, जो अमरीका ने एक वातावरण बना दिया है—जमीन में, आसमान में और सब तरफ, इससे निपटने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है ? धन्यवाद ।

SHRI A. K. ANTONY (Kerala) : We share this statement by the Minister. In fact, even before the statement I read a few letters which our honourable Foreign Minister brought from Iraq in which many of our friends said that unless urgent steps were taken within a few weeks there were going to be starvation deaths in Kuwait. And unless we do something boldly, drastically, I fear that they are going to face one of the greatest human tragedies in the Gulf, in Kuwait. In a similar situation—I am not comparing but I am pointing out one example—in Sri Lanka we sent food articles to them. I know the forces in this area are powerful. But we have to act boldly. Whatever the consequences, we must declare publicly that because lakhs of our citizens are there in a state of near starvation in Kuwait, Government of India is sending food articles and medicines to Kuwait. And after announcing our decision, our official decision, we must appeal to the international community and also to the people of the United States and Europe and through their pressure we must pressurise their Governments that whatever may be the other political questions, they must allow India to send food and medicines to Kuwait as otherwise, thousands of our brothers and sisters will be facing starvation deaths. We must pressurise, through public opinion, the United States and other European countries who are now blockading shipments.

So, I come now to my first question : Why not we unilaterally declare that because of the urgency, because of the near-starvation-death situation there, that we are sending food and medicines to Kuwait after declaring our intention to do so ? Why not we uphold the resolution of the UN Security Council and why not we demand a special session of the UN to find a solution to this problem. This is my first question. We have to compel the US Government and its allies for agreeing to our request to send food articles and medicines to Kuwait immediately to avoid a human tragedy.

I come to my second question now. Of course, the Government of India is now trying to increase the number of aircraft. But why can't we, in order to overcome the difficulties, divert more of our domestic aircraft to bring people from Amman ? According to the private information which we are getting, nearly forty thousand Indians are either in Amman or Iraq-Jordan border. We are also getting so many letters and calls and, therefore, the information from Amman indicates that nearly forty thousand Indians are there. So, we have to increase the number of aircraft. Otherwise, it will take many days. Now, in Amman also, the people are trying to get water and food and medicine like beggars. So, we must not allow this situation to continue. You must increase the number of aircraft to bring back people from there.

I come to my third question now. The Chief Minister of Kerala, after meeting the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, in a Press conference at Trivandrum, declared that the Prime Minister had agreed to convene a conference of the Chief Ministers to prepare an action plan for the rehabilitation of the Kuwait returnees. He has announced this ten days ago. Now, thousands of people are re-

[Shri A. K. Antony]

turning and this is creating a problem for the Government and a problem for the people and already there is social tension. So along with our attempt to send food and medicine, to send more aircraft, the Government should convene an urgent meeting of the Chief Ministers to prepare an action plan for the rehabilitation of the Kuwait returnees. This is my third question. Thank you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Subramanian Swamy.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh) : Madam Deputy Chairman, by reading this statement of the Minister, one gets clearly the impression that the Government of India is totally impotent as far as protecting the Indians is concerned.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : I do not know whether that word is parliamentary or not.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Is it unparliamentary ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : But I do not mind because I know it is coming from a fellow being !

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : What did you say ? Coming from a...

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : From a fellow being !

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Now, despite making a series of pro-Iraqi statements, the Government of India has reached a stage where the Foreign Minister has to tell us that the Iraqi authorities have taken the position that repatriation from Kuwait and Iraq will not be permitted unless the aircraft or ships employed for repatriation also brought food there. This means that the Indian have become effective hostages with the Iraqis.

In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to a news item in "The Hindu" of today which says, "Indians on the streets of Baghdad", and it is a very moving report on how the Indians are living in Baghdad—not in Kuwait—and how even they cannot be brought back. Therefore, I would like to know from the honourable Minister, when he is talking about a political solution as opposed to a military solution, as to what exactly he has got in mind. I am asking this question because President Saddam Hussain has made a declaration that the annexation of Kuwait is not open to any discussion. Either you accept the annexation. If you don't accept the annexation, then you must have an open mind on an alternative solution. If necessary, if the whole world is united, including the USSR, I don't think we should still continue to take a stand which would be interpreted in the world as pro-Iraq, particularly in the context of the way they are treating the Indians as if they are nobody and are dogs.

Secondly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that when you talk of the Non-aligned movement there is already a split in the Non-aligned movement. There is an Arab League solution and an Arab solution. I do not know whether the Minister is aware of it. The Arab world is divided into two camps. Which side are you—here also in the middle, playing to neither side ?

Finally, one of the newspapers said that the Prime Minister has written a letter to the President of the United States and to the President of the USSR. What is this letter in content ? I do not want all the details. Naturally you are not going to give them. But is it not also another letter in helplessness ? Or is there any concrete suggestion ?

I would conclude by saying that at this hour of crisis if you cannot get the Indians out, which was originally your goal, then it would be better for India to take a clear-cut stand and side with those forces which will be in a position to undo the annexation effectively.

SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, two days back we saw a pathetic sight, it was telecast on the Doordarshan that 50,000 Asians were trapped in the neutral zone in between Jordan and Iraq, and they were literally struggling for food and water, Madam, and they were beaten up by the police to maintain law and order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It was last night also.

SHRI JOHN F FERNANDES : Today also. Madam, as the Minister has rightly mentioned, no permission has been given to us to do a humanitarian service. I remember, in 1987 the Government defied the sovereignty of other countries and dropped food in Sri Lanka, not for Indians but foreign nationals. Madam, if this is the stand taken by certain western powers, I think we should try to make the same attempt again and we should not allow our people to be blackmailed or to be starved in foreign countries.

Madam, the Minister has mentioned in the statement that 1500 Indians would be airlifted every day. I think even if they airlift 2000 per day it will take them 100 days there are 2 lakh Indians in Kuwait and in Iraq, both legal and illegal migrants—it will take a very long time to airlift them, and that will be very disastrous for our people. I would ask the Minister, as it is done by the Government of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, why can't we request the International Relief Organisation or the United Nations Disaster Relief Committee to help us in this matter ? And I think they will charge us no money. I don't think we should be very shy about it. I think we should go forward and put in this request to the United Nations. And regarding not allowing the ships to cross waters, Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether we have sought help of the International Red Cross or International Red cresent in this matter, because I don't think it is a defiance of the United Nation's Resolution No. 661. When the Western force are not allowing us to function within the Resolution, I think there should be some objection and, if necessary, force must be used.

Then, Madam, the Indian Air Force are lifting a lot of Indians from the Gulf. But I think no food has been supplied to them in the planes. I have no complaint about that. But when they land on Indian airports, I think the Civil Aviation Ministry should make some arrangements to give them some food and water. I am told that from the airport they are just huddled together in the bus and sent to the railway station. That is not fair. Some arrangement should be made to provide them the basic amenities, Madam.

Madam, the other day we had a report on the Doordarshan that Iran would allow Indian nationals to cross into Iran and go to India. I think subsequently this stand was changed by Iran. Dr. Swamy rightly said it Is it done to blackmail India just to exchange food for people ? If this is the stand, I feel that the Government of India should intervene and have direct talks with the Government of Iran to help us in this matter. Thank you.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : Madam Deputy Chairman, I have three questions. The Statement, though exhaustive, implies that the Government of India is unable to help the people who are stranded in Kuwait in spite of the efforts made by our Foreign Minister. I would like to say that the Government of India should take the initiative to bring the people who have crossed over to Jordan as far as possible and all possible help should be given to them. The Minister says at page 4 of his Statement : "We took this initiative on the basis of a clear-cut provision in the U.N. Security Council Resolution 661 that medical supplies are not subject to any restrictions and that food for humanitarian purpose can be supplied". Under the U.N. decision, the medicines can be supplied even to other countries in case of difficulty. Therefore, there is no difficulty in airlifting the medicines even according to the U.N. Resolution. The Government can very well do it on humanitarian grounds. My point is that the hon. Foreign Minister went there to have discussions with the President of Iraq, Mr. Saddam Hussain. Then they imposed a pre-condition that if the people are to be repatriated, we will have to bring the food supplies. I would like to know what was the Minister's response there. It was all along said that Iraq was a friendly country. Our genuine request is for bringing the people who have been stranded in Kuwait and Iraq. My point of view is that our diplomacy has failed there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether our diplomacy has failed while he was talking to the President of Iraq. He has taken all the initiative. I appre-

[Shri V. Narayanasamy]

ciate the initiative taken by him. But the mission was a failure. Even though he had taken all the initiative, his mission to Iraq and Kuwait was a failure because the net result was not favourable to India. Therefore, I would like to know the response of the hon. Foreign Minister when these pre-conditions were imposed by them.

Madam, I have received information from Indian citizens in Kuwait that when the ration shops opened only for two hours a day and the people started standing in the queue, the shops had been closed within half an hour. There are no private shops there. Even the private shops have not been functioning there. It is the duty of the Government of India to take immediate steps. The Minister says that he has written to the permanent members and contacted the President of the United States. The Government of India should have taken these steps earlier for the supply of food and medicines because when the Minister went there, he would have assessed the situation that people were suffering for want of food and medicines. Why did they take late steps in writing to the permanent members of the U. N. Security Council.

Then there is another pertinent problem. If the people are being brought here, what is there plan of action to rehabilitate those people? The people from Kerala are more. What is their plan of action? These are the three points on which I would like to seek clarification from the hon. Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, I have got a lot of names listed with me. I request the Members not to repeat which is being already asked because if you repeat, then there is no point. It is already being asked and the Minister will reply. Please try to ask something new if you have.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मंत्री महोदय के उत्तर से मैं पूरी तरह संतुष्ट हूं । ऐसी परिस्थितियों में जितना करना संभव है वह सरकार कर रही है । हम लोगों को इस बात का पूरा विश्वास और आशा रखनी चाहिए कि इसके अच्छे परिणाम मिलेंगे ।

प्रो. मधु दण्डवते : इस तरह से प्रश्न पूछेंगे तो जल्दी खत्म होगा ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It was the point not raised by anybody.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI (Uttar Pradesh) : Madam, no doubt, India has deep anxiety because we are directly affected by what is developing in the Gulf whether it is our economy or growth. And basically the immediate matter of anxiety is our stranded people in Iraq and Kuwait. We were very happy and we welcomed the previous statement of our hon. Foreign Minister which he gave after visiting Kuwait and Iraq. And we attached high hopes. But, today, the statement made by the hon. Foreign Minister has disappointed us because he has only attached high hopes and good wishes. When our people are near to death and they are suffering from hunger and thirst, this statement is not going to help them at all. About 1,80,000 people are stranded in both the countries, and the way they are trying to bring them back to this country is very discouraging. And the number of flights and airplanes which have been deployed to bring them back is very insufficient. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether they are leaving these people at the mercy of their fate or are they also going to approach the United States—if a war breaks over there, innocent people of Indian origin will be killed—that they should wait till the repatriation of the total population of the Indian origin if they want to attack Kuwait.

Secondly, Madam, the main provocation was the intervention and the highest and the mightiest military deployment by the United States in Saudi Arabia. The provocation due to the deployment of the US forces has not been condemned in this statement. And India has not said anything against it. Actually, the problem started with the blockade of the cargo and the movement to and from Iraq. I think, this deserves condemnation. This has been condemned by the Secretary-General of the United Nations also. And nowhere it

has been stated that medicines and foodstuff should also cover the scope of the Sanctions.

Lastly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they are going to talk to the Iraqi Government that if we could supply some foodstuff and medicines to them, they will allow their airports for bringing back our stranded people. Supply of food and medicines is a humanitarian problem and we should think from that angle. And would the Kuwait Government permit the use of the Al Aqaba port for bringing more passengers to our country because the way we are picking up our Indian nationals from there, it will take four or five months? And the role of the NAM has not been very much noticed during this crisis. You have informed us that a Committee has been formed under the leadership of Yugoslavia. I think, it is just an eye-wash. It is not going to result in something very fruitful. The words and phrases used in this statement are discouraging and you have failed to do justice. You have not done your duty expected to you. You have not been able to spell out anything concrete towards solving the problem. The question is, will India try to play its role in bringing about peace and amity between Iraq and Kuwait? The Prime Minister has said. Also, will you try to make the role of NAM more effective?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Sibtey Razi, which port you were referring to? I did not hear.

SHRI SYED SIBETY RAZI : Aqaba, in Jordan.

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal) : Madam Deputy Chairman, of course, very correctly, the statement expresses concern in regard to the foreign nationals trapped in Kuwait and Iraq, and also in regard to their repatriation.

At the end of his statement, the hon. Minister has tried to give some answers, though not readymade, to the situation. There is no mention of the US' military presence. The Minister has said here : ". . . a reversal of the foreign military presence in the region . . ." while you have opposed the Iraqi role in Kuwait and correctly mentioned ". . . renunciation of a miltary solution to the problem and working for a political solution; withdrawal by Iraq from Kuwait . . ." etc.

The problem which you are now facing is one of evacuating our people trapped in Kuwait and Iraq. There is also the problem of reaching food and medicines to the needy people there. We should condemn the role of the U.S. which has gone too far in its blockade operations in the name of implementing the UN sanctions. We should condemn it.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that since most of the people returning belong to Kerala, it is a great problem for the Kerala Government to rehabilitate them. The Kerala Government has come forward with a plan costing Rs. 750 crores. I would like to know, what is the reaction of the Central Government in this regard? Also, in regard to the education of the children who have already arrived here, will the Central Government direct the Central Schools to open more sections?

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Meghalaya) : Madam Deputy Chairman, the most disconcerting feature in the Minister's statement is about the decision by the Government of Iraq not to allow the aircraft of other countries to land in their territory including Kuwait unless the aircraft also carry food and medicines. Now that seems unlikely. It is extremely improbably because the blockading powers are determined to tighten their screw on Iraq and there is increasing talk of an air blockade. This is a daunting scenario. I do not know how you are going to meet the situation. I do not know whether the hon. Minister has any idea to share with us, as to how he is going to meet the situation. Is there really the possibility of an air blockade? This one thing.

Secondly, he has said that we have been carrying some food and medicines and also tents to Amman and making them over to the Government of Jordan in order to help them meet the situation. But we have tens of thousands of people over there living in extremely difficult conditions. Now there is a blockade also to the Gulf of Aqaba in Jordan. In the event

[Shri Mohd. Salim]

of an air blockade, will this also apply to aircraft going to Amman? If that happens, the situation will almost be impossible.

Thirdly, I would like to know, when we go to Amman, over which air territory do we fly? Do we overfly the present territory of Iraq including Kuwait? These are the three questions. Will the hon. Minister throw some light on them?

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदया, मैंने इस सदन में पहले भी दो-दो बार आग्रह किया कि हमारे पास इतने एयरक्राफ्ट्स नहीं हैं कि हम उन लोगों को ला सकें। जब मौका था तब आपने दुनिया के अन्य देशों से कोई सहायता नहीं ली और अब तो आप ऐसी स्थिति में चले आए हैं कि अब हमको लग रहा है कि यह असंभव काम है। सरकार ने पहले सुना नहीं और अब इस विपदा में हम लोग पहुंच गए हैं। अब जो हालत है उसमें मुझे लगता है कि इराक वाले जरूर यह कोशिश करेंगे कि हमारे लोगों को भी वहां से न निकलने दें या कम से कम निकलने दें ताकि भारत इस बात के लिए आवाज उठाए कि वहां उनके साथ लड़ाई न हो। यह उनका इंटरेस्ट है और हमारा भी इंटरेस्ट वहां आकर मिल गया है क्योंकि हम भी चाहते हैं कि हमारे लोगों की भी जान बचे और युद्ध न बढ़े। तो इसलिए मैं यह समझता हूं इस कम्पलीकेटेड सिचुयेशन के अंदर जो हमारे पास शक्ति है, न हम एकानामिक शक्ति हैं और न मिलेट्री शक्ति है, हमारे पास सिर्फ पब्लिक ओपीनियन की शक्ति है। उस पब्लिक ओपीनियन को बनाने में सरकार असफल रही है। यह मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूं कि यह काफी नहीं है कि आप खत लिख दें सेक्रेटरी जनरल को। उन्होंने क्या जवाब दिया सो उन्हें मालूम है। हम भी पत्र लिख सकते हैं लेकिन आपके लिखने पर भी जवाब न मिले तो आपमें और हमारे में क्या फर्क रह जाएगा। ... **(व्यवधान)** इसलिए यह कोई तरीका नहीं है। सेक्युरिटी कौंसिल में सवाल को उठाने, जनरल असेंबली को बुलवाने या नाम को, नान एलायंड नेशंस का सम्मेलन बुलाने की मांग करके पब्लिक ओपीनियन क्रियेट करने के साधन हम कर सकते थे लेकिन उसको आप कर ही नहीं रहे हैं। अमरीका का जो व्यवहार है, वह वहां गया है यह बताने के लिए कि हम कुवैत की रक्षा के लिए जा रहे हैं। लेकिन दरअसल बात यह है कि वे अपने तेल की रक्षा के लिए और पूरे मिडिल-ईस्ट पर हावी होने के लिए वहां गया है। अमेरिका का यह रोल वर्ल्ड पुलिस मैन रोल हो रहा है। भारत सरकार को इस बारे में जिस दृढ़ता के साथ बोलना चाहिए वह नहीं बोल रही है। यह भी है कि सेंकण्ड वर्ल्ड जो था, आप तो जानते हैं कि फर्स्ट वर्ल्ड, सेंकण्ड वर्ल्ड और थर्ड वर्ल्ड, तो सेंकण्ड वर्ल्ड हमारी बिरादरी के लोगों का, समाजवादी देशों का था वह अब बहुत ठण्डा पड़ गया। तो इस ठण्डाई में आप और भी ठण्डे पड़ गए। ... **(व्यवधान)** ... जो भी नाम रखिए, ठण्डाई झेलनी पड़ेगी। आपको चाहिए कि आप अपना कारोबार दुरूस्त करें लेकिन हम क्यों इस ठण्ड में फंस गए हैं? हमको तो ठण्डा नहीं पड़ना चाहिए। हम तो हो गए हैं, उपसभापति महोदया, जैसे इण्डियन रेलवे में फर्स्ट क्लास, सेंकण्ड क्लास और थर्ड क्लास होते थे, थर्ड क्लास को खत्म कर दिया तो आटोमेटीकली थर्ड क्लास सेकण्ड क्लास हो गया। सेंकड वर्ल्ड हट गया तो आटोमेटीकली थर्ड वर्ल्ड सेकण्ड वर्ल्ड में चले गए। ... **(व्यवधान)** ... मैं कह रहा हूं कि जो फर्स्ट वर्ल्ड है, साम्राज्यवादी देश उनसे हमारा सीधा टकराव हो रहा है। भारत को यह तय करना है कि हम अपने स्वार्थ को देखते हुए किस तरह से अपना रोल अदा करें, हमको लग रहा है कि आप यहां पर कमजोर दिखाई दे रहे हैं। **(समय की घंटी)**

, मैं अपनी एक और बात कहकर समाप्त कर रहा हूं । गोर्बाचोव और बुश कल मिलने वाले हैं . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . . उन को यह कहा जाए, भारत और सोवियत संघ तो मित्र हैं और अमेरिका भी आपका मित्र है। यू.एन. रिजोल्यूशन का वायोलेशन हो रहा है इसके बारे में क्या उनका ध्यान आकर्षित किया गया है? खाली चिट्ठी के बारे में तो पहले ही मैंने कह दिया। कोई जाकर कहे। दोनों जब मिल रहे हैं तो यहां से आदमी जाता, कहता कि युद्ध होने पर या दवा-भोजन नहीं देने पर हमारे सब के सब मारे जाएंगे । इसलिए कम से कम इस लड़ाई को रोकने के लिए भारत को सारी शक्ति लगानी चाहिए। अमेरिका को वहां से वापस हटना चाहिए । इसके बाद कुवैत की आजादी के प्रश्न में—भारत ने तो सही ढंग से उठाया ही है—वर्ल्ड पावर्स को एक्ट करना चहिए जिससे कुवैत भी आजाद हो सके । इन बिंदुओं पर मैं सरकार की नीति कमजोर ही पाता हूं । इसलिए मैं इन बिंदुओं पर सफाई चाहूंगा । प्रारम्भ में जब विदेश मंत्री जी वहां गए थे और भरसक कोशिश की थी तो हमने उसकी तारीफ कर ही दी थी । अब थोड़ी सी ज्यादा करेंगे तो ये गड़बड़ा जाएंगे।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Madam, after clarifications, will there be a debate on this?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Our clarifications are big enough to be fitted in a debate. We have clarifications for you also, Mr. Finance Minister . . . . Yes, your name is here along with many other names. Please take your seat. There are 21 names. I have not called all the twenty-one yet.

श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, खाड़ी देशों के संकट में . . (**व्यवधान**) हमारे भारत के लोग परेशानी में फंसे हुए हैं । इसकी सारे देश को चिंता है और उससे भी अधिक भारत सरकार को चिंता है । माननीय मंत्री जी वहां दौरा करके आए हैं और एक विस्तृत ब्यौरा उन्होंने इस ब्यान में दिया है । इसमें बहुत सारी बातों का उल्लेख उन्होंने किया है । जो बातें उन्होंने कीं वे सारी स्पष्ट रूप से इसमें बतायी गयी हैं । वहां पर दवाइयों और खाद्यान्न के संकट के बारे में हमारा जो प्रयास है, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो प्रयास करने का हवाला दिया है वह निश्चित रूप से सराहनीय है । किन्तु दवाइयों से अत्यधिक खाद्यान्न की आवश्यकता है । जब आदमी का जीवन संकट में हो जाता है तो खाद्यान्न की आवश्यकता दवाइयों से बढ़कर हो जाती है । खाद्यान्न वहां पर हम अपने आदमियों को आवश्यकता के अनुसार नहीं पहुंचा पा रहे हैं । आपने जिक्र किया है कि—

"हमसे बहुत साफ शब्दों में यह कहा गया है कि खाद्यान्न का जहाज न भेजा जाए, खाद्यान्नों की इतनी कमी नहीं है कि जिसने मानवीय आयाम ले लिया है और खाद्य सामग्री लेकर जाने वाले जहाज को उधर से नहीं गुजरने दिया जाएगा ।"

मैं माननीय मन्त्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि ये कौन लोग हैं जो इस तरह का अमानवीय व्यवहार कर रहे हैं और उनके विरोध में क्या आपने संयुक्त राष्ट्र परिषद् में कोई जोरदार सुझाव पेश किया है और उसके लिए आप क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं ? यदि वे जाने नहीं दे रहे हैं फिर हम उनके लिए और क्या उपाय अपने लिए सोच रहे हैं ?

अन्त में मैं एक बात और जानना चाहता हूं । आपने इस पैराग्राफ में कहा है कि इस क्षेत्र में विदेशी सैन्य शक्तियों का जमाव बेरोक-टोक बढ़ता जा रहा है । यदि इस सिलसिले को रोकने के लिए कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई और बातचीत के माध्यम से इस समस्या का कोई समाधान नहीं निकाला गया तो सैन्य टकराव की संभावना से इन्कार नहीं किया

[श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम]

जा सकता । निश्चय ही हमारा देश भी उस सैन्य टकराव से प्रभावित होगा । जो आप प्रयास कर रहे हैं और . . . (समय की घन्टी) गुटनिरपेक्ष आन्दोलन के माध्यम से जो बैठक होने की संभावना है उसमें आप किन परिणामों की संभावनाएं रखते हैं । यदि उसमें भी कोई उपयुक्त परिणाम न निकला तो क्या उस सैन्य टकराव में हमारे देश को भी फसना पड़ेगा ? धन्यवाद ।

उपसभापति : डा. जैन । कृपया ऐसे सवाल कीजिए जो किसी ने न पूछे हों ।

AN HON. MEMBER : You seem to be extremely tired, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I can tell you who has asked what question. So I would be very happy and thankful if you ask a question which has not been asked so that we can get a reply, because whether one Member asks or two ask a particular question, the reply is going to be the same. Now Dr. Jain.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN (Madhya Pradesh) : Okay, thank you, Madam.

प्रो. मधु दण्डवते : अभी पूछना है, तो मण्डल कमीशन के बारे में पूछो ।

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Madam, I believe the discussion now is ..... (*Interruptions*) ..... I wish to ask . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Have you come to the House for the first time after your fast ?

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Thank you, Madam. I am speaking in the House for the first time after my fast.

AN HON. MEMBER : Good, go faster !

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Madam, I wish to ask the honourable Minister whether he has explored the possibility of talking to the Government of United States of America, the Iraqi Government and other powers concerned, whether we can send a ship to evacuate our Indians there. The number of people there is 1,80,000 and if we want to evacuate them through the Air Force or other modes of transport, it is going to take a number of years. One of the things that occurred to my mind is that a ship can be sent if it can be allowed. After all, even in situations of war, for peaceful purposes things are done. We are not a party to the dispute from either side. If one or two ships of adequate size can be sent, totally for the peaceful purpose of evacuating our Indians stranded in Kuwait and Iraq, we will be able to save our countrymen. I want to know this. Thank you.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR (Bihar) : Madam, let me say that in the spirit of constructive cooperation we are watching the efforts of the honourable Minister with optimism. It is a testing time for the Government in the pursuit of its external policy on serveral counts. Relief and repatriation is one. Promotion of early peace in the Gulf is second and, No. 3 is, there is scope for our visible and effective contribution in this first major threat to peace in the post-cold war era. Lastly, Madam, this is the occasion to transmit right signals to our friends and others as well.

Now my questions are : 1. The Minister has said that the situation in the Gulf has deteriorated. Deteriorated in what terms ? Does it mean that the outlook for war has substantially increased ? Does it mean that the scope for the United Nations' role has evaporated ? Does it mean that there is a pessimistic outlook on the summit which is taking place at the moment ? Secondly, Madam, the Minister says that the morale of the Indians has deteriorated. Does it mean that there is growing physical insecurity to the Indians there ? There are reports in the newspaper today that in Kuwait there is direct hostility towards Indians from non-Indians, particularly in the distribution of food and medicines. Thirdly, Madam, the Minister doesn't, in his statement, make any mention of the possibility of an Arab force or a United Nations' force. Does it mean that they have not applied their mind to that, or does it mean that

they do not visualize the possibility of this ?

Lastly, Madam, there are some countries which are likely to be compensated for the cost of suffering that they have undergone, either from the United States of America or a pool or fund that might be created from contributions by relatively rich countries. It there a positive scope for India being even partially compensated for the suffering—the economic expenditure it has to undergo—as a result of the shooting war ?

With these words, Madam, I hope that the Minister will not only clarify but also take into consideration the implications and some of the suggestions that are there.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, I have the names of Mr. Jacob, Shri Ram Naresh Yadav, Maulana Obaidullah Azmi, Vishvjit Singhji, Shrimati Satya Bahin, Prof. Sourendra Bhattacharjee and Shri Kapil Verma. Now, I don't know... Prof. Sourendra Bhattacharya.

श्री कपिल वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : एक-एक मिनट दे दीजिए । . . . (**व्यवधान**)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let me finish the parties first.

आपकी पार्टी के कोई बोल चुके हैं । सत्य प्रकाश जी बोल चुके हैं ।

मौलाना ओबैदुल्ला खां आजमी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : वह नहीं बोले हैं । मेरा मुद्दा बड़ा अहम है । सरकार जो कर रही है, उसका हम समर्थन करते हैं । मगर मेरा कुछ अहम मुद्दा है, जो मैं रखना चाहूंगा ।

उपसभापति : अभी सौरीन्द्र भट्टाचार्य को बोलने दीजिए ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Prof. Bhattacharjee, please be extremely brief.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (WEST BENGAL): The statement of the External Affairs Minister is really disconcerting for Indians as a whole. On the one side there is the Iraqi condition that direct fight would not be permitted or ships would not be allowed if food is not carried by India for Iraq.

[The Vice-Chairman (Prof. Chandresh P. Thakur) in the Chair.]

On the other side, the name has not been mentioned. I would like the External Affairs Minister for once to name the power which is preventing food sent on humanitarian grounds to reach there. It is a country having naval presence. This type of indirect formulation may be in consonance with the External Affairs Minister's diplomatic language, but it cannot be very much to our own interests. I would like him to mention that the U.S. Navy is really preventing our foodstuffs to enter this region. The silence has been continuing for a long time not to name the super power.

Secondly, I would request the External Affairs Minister kindly to tell us whether Chairman Yassar Arafat who has a good access to, perhaps some influence also on, President Saddam Hussein, has been approached to help us out of the practically hostile activities that have now been mounted by Iraq even against India. Perhaps it is a habit. It was done in Kuwait. Now they are trying to do it elsewhere.

So far as the USA is concerned not only its naval presence in this area exposes the entire area to a great danger on the question of humanitarian help, but also the danger of this step has to be raised by at least the NAM. Will the External Affairs Minister ensure us that this will be done ?

Thank you, Sir.

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मन्त्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि इसमें दो प्रश्न बहुत ही गंभीर हैं जिस तरह से कि खाद्यान्न और चिकित्सा, दोनों को भेजने का जो सवाल है, मुझे ऐसा लग

[श्री राम नरेश यादव]

रहा है कि सरकार तो कहने को इस वक्तव्य के आधार पर बहुत ख्याल कर रही है और पिछले दिनों भी जो वक्तव्य आया था उसके आधार पर एक चिंता भी प्रकट की गई थी कि स्थिति बहुत भयंकर है, लेकिन आज जिस भयंकरता की ओर स्थिति आ गई है उसके बारे में दो पत्र विदेश मन्त्री की तरफ से लिखे गए हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जो पत्र पहले लिखा गया था संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के महासचिव को इस आधार पर कि खाद्यान्न सामग्री भेजने में रोक की जा रही है उस संबंध में संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के महासचिव की क्या प्रतिक्रिया आई है ? मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि जब इतना प्रश्न गंभीर होता जा रहा है और वहां से जो प्रत्यावर्तित लोग आ रहे थे उनके निकालने की सारी व्यवस्था थी और जब खाद्यान्न जहाज से भेजने पर भी आपत्ति लगाई जा रही थी तो मैं माननीय मन्त्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि इस विषय की गंभीरता को ध्यान में रखते हुए, राष्ट्रीय महत्व को, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय महत्व को ध्यान में रखते हुए यह पत्र कल सुरक्षा परिषद् को क्यों लिखा गया जबकि पिछले ही वक्तव्य में माननीय मन्त्री जी ने अपनी गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त की थी ? राष्ट्र भी इस प्रश्न से बहुत चिंतित है।

महोदय, सरकार की दृष्टि जिस तरह से खाड़ी के संबंध में बन रही है, उससे मुझे ऐसा लग रहा है कि वह सोती रही है। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इस संबंध में स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूं। तीसरा प्रश्न, मेरा यह है कि, आपने 69 लाख टन खाद्य सामग्री भेजी है, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि आखिर आप किस-किस प्रकार से और व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं जिससे कि वहां के लोगों को यहां लाने में आसानी हो सके जोकि इतनी बड़ी संख्या में वहां पर हैं। साथ ही आपने कल सुरक्षा परिषद को लिखा है और कुछ ही दिन पहले संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव को लिखा है। तो आखिर आप जानबूझकर इस तरह की स्थिति क्यों पैदा कर रहे हैं और मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस स्थिति को हल करने के लिए आप क्या कदम निकट भविष्य में उठाने जा रहे हैं ताकि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में जो भयावह स्थिति हो चुकी है उससे देश को बचाया जा सके और युद्ध की जो विभीषिका पैदा हो रही है, उससे भी देश बच सके।

SHRI M. M. JACOB (Kerala) : I was listening to the statement of the Minister with rapt attention. It is really disappointing. Last time he was giving a very promising picture. This time he has put us in a great anxiety and anguish, because the picture has totally changed. Since many of our friends have asked questions, I would like to ask only one or two questions.

In the morning in some of the foreign broadcasts I heard that American civilians are being lifted by Iraqi Airlines from Iraq. That means Iraq has agreed to lend its aircraft to transport the American civilians from there. I heard on BBC this morning that Iraq has agreed to give its aircraft and American civilians are being evacuated today. When we are having good relations with Iraq, what prevents us from requesting that country to lend us its aircraft ? If our aircraft cannot overfly, what is preventing you to ask Iraqi aircraft on payment or by way of any other method to lift our people from there ?

As per your statement, even if you take three months, you cannot lift all Indians because it is practically impossible at this rate. So, we have to find out some other method. Last time I requested you to approach other Governments if they can lend their aircraft. This is the easiest method.

Iraq wants food supplies to reach there by the aircraft which land there; otherwise they will not permit them to land there. What is it that prevents you ? After all we have given food aid to Ethiopia. Last time when there was scarcity there, we rushed our food supplies. Whenever you wanted to help other people in need and necessity, we never hesitated extending our arm of help. Why not we think seriously about it supplying

food materials in the aircraft or ships whichever go there to take people back home ?

Thirdly, you said in your statement that you are sending letters to the United Nations, to the Secretary-General and all that. It is good to satisfy us that you are taking action. It is a governmental routine type of letter-writing and reply-receiving. But we really want action on this. There is no question of our fighting here across the table. Somebody will have to act on it. You have said that you have earmarked Rs. 1 crore. It is nothing if you keep our National Income in view. You know how much we spent to look after the refugees from Bangladesh or refugees from Sri Lanka. This is nothing when our citizens are facing such a situation. So, I would request you to give priority to sending food supplies there and also give priority to get any aircraft or Iraqi aircraft to lift our people from there.

I would also request you to see that medical supplies reach there. I think there is a way because I read in *The Hindu* newspaper day before yesterday—I will not take more time because there are many items on the agenda—and there was a news item written by Mr. Narayan who returned from Kuwait. He wrote his own experience in the newspaper as to how he escaped, how he came, how he walked, how he was put into the car and all those details. He said "while we were in Kuwait we saw on the television".

Mr. I. K. Gujral hugging Saddam Hussein, Iraqi President. That was the limit. We were all so much worried because the next day Kuwaitis started attacking us, the Indians there. What I want to say is that Kuwait is not happy about this. I am not saying that when you go to Baghdad you shall not hug Saddam Hussein or you shall be unfriendly with Iraq. What I mean to say is that in this process we cannot afford to lose both the people—Kuwait as well as Iraq—in this bargain. A foreign policy has to be conducted in such a way that we regain both in the process. It appears to me that we are losing both We are losing the international prestige. We are losing our initiative. You are burying the NAM and you are surrendering everything to somebody in the Wall Street or somewhere. That is the impression which I get from your foreign policy. Now your action is the only solution and nothing else. No statement will be satisfactory because we know how statements are made and how they are prepared. Please act immediately. That is my humble request. The time is of essence. Thank you.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, I think that the congratulations which we gave to the External Affairs Minister last time were premature... (*Interruptions*) ..... The fact is that Doordarshan misquoted me because what I said was that the hon. Minister is the best Minister in this Government. Of course, Doordarshan quoted me "I said that he is the best Foreign Minister India ever had." That is wrong. I said he is the best Minister India has today and I still maintain that though I have a little problem. My problem starts....

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI (Madhya Pradesh) : That means he should be elevated.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : I would be very happy if he is elevated.

AN HON. MEMBER : Go closer.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : You are coming close to him. That may not be a happy thing for him.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : The second para on page 2, I cannot see this figure. It is a little unclear. I do not know whether it is 62,000 or 82,000.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It is 22,000.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : I thought it was 82,000. I was a little worried about that.

Now, my next problem is on page 4 where the Minister says : "We, therefore, approached all those with maritime forces in the area." Then, on page 5, he goes on

[Shri Vishvjit P. Singh]

to say that he wrote a letter to the U.N. Secretary General and informed him of the developing food shortage in the area and of our decision to despatch a food ship. Now, he has contacted all those forces in the area also talked about a food ship. After getting refusal from them he contacted the U.N. authorities. Would it not have been better, Mr. Minister, to have gone straight to the U.N. authorities because it is working under sanctions and the forces in the Gulf. So far as I believe, the maritime forces are under the U.N. flag or is it that they are under the U.S. flag? I would like to know that.

Going a little further from there, the real problem starts on page 6 because the Minister goes on to say: "I have to report that there has been some delay and even departures from the assurances given by the Iraqi authorities in implementing the agreement reached during my visit to Baghdad, on which I had earlier reported to the House." What was that agreement which you have reached with the Iraqi authorities?

Of course, the most disconcerting development has been the position taken by them that the repatriation from Kuwait and Iraq itself, which is most convenient, will not be permitted. Is it in that agreement they had permitted this and they have not permitted it today? Is that the change? Is it not a fact, Mr. Minister, that they gave you no such assurances the last time when you were there and that you came back without any assurances, without any actual agreement? We were all happy at the plane-load of evacuees that you brought back. But in actual effect, what did you achieve last time? What agreement did you get? May be, we know the details of that. My last question is on page 7 where you have talked of NAM and the initiative taken by NAM. I am very glad that this Government is finally talking in terms of NAM because I have heard it—they said it in this House and outside; it was said by the hon. Prime Minister as well as by the present Minister also—that the role of NAM now has to change because with the end of the cold war, NAM has got now no role to play. This is what this Government has been maintaining. I am glad that you finally realised that NAM does have a role to play. You said that mainly at our suggestion, Yugoslavia, the ,Chairman etc. etc... I would like to know: when did you make this suggestion to NAM? The present Chairman of NAM, as you maintained, in Yugoslavia and did Yugoslavia not take any initiative at all in this? I want to have a categorical answer that Yugoslavia did not take any initiative. That means you took the initiative. When did you take the initiative? When did you get after Yugoslavia to have a meeting? I am given to understand that Yugoslavia had a meeting of the NAM's ambassadors the very day this crisis blew up and immediately called for a meeting of the NAM Foreign Ministers. I would like to know the details of this. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the Finance Minister's statement is there. I am not objecting to the Foreign Minister's statement. (*Interruption*) One minute. Sir, the excise duty issue is agitating the minds of the Members and also the Industrial Policy.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Well, there are other things also which are agitating the mind.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: As far as this issue is concerned, it has been reported that about Rs. 10,000 crores is the amount involved. I would like to know when that will be taken up because today is the last day. The Finance Minister is not here.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): It is a listed item on the agenda. The Finance Minister was here. (*Interruption*). Let this item be over. I hope in the meantime the Finance Minister will come because he was here already. Let this item be over. I can see your anxiety but there are other Members also who are interested in several other things and you know it is a loaded agenda.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I would like to seek clarifications because I gave my name.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Just have some more patience. Shri Kapil Verma.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Sir, the hon. Minister's long statement has in fact greatly added to our concern and I would say that for three reasons. There is not only the question of safety of our people in that area and the failure of the Government to solve the problem but also the fact that our Foreign Policy does not appear to be yielding results. I will not use very strong language because the correctness of policy will be mainly judged by our own interest and whether it has ensured safety of our people.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : You promised to be brief.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Yes, I would be very brief. The first thing that I am going to ask is about the Minister's statement that the chances of military confrontation are increasing. The risk of war cannot be ruled out. Of course, in diplomatic language, he put it very mildly. But as I see from American statement, they are preparing for long term confrontation and it appears that Pakistan is going to be a frontline State to them and would be supplied arms and ammunition on the same scale on which they were supplied in the case of Afghanistan war. That brings a lot of sound of alarm bells in our ears. Pakistan has got one more opportunity to arm itself and that is why, we want to know exactly whether our Foreign Minister had talks with the American Secretary of State and Defence Secretary and others when he went to Washington. What talks did we have? These arms, I am afraid, are going to be used against India once again. And with their evil eye on India, a new development has taken place on our borders. It has given altogether a new dimension and I am more concerned with that apart from, of course, the fact that our own people are suffering. Everything must be done to evacuate them. I want to know whether he has got such assurances on that issue or not that these arms will not be used against us. And what is his assessment of this basic change in the security situation apart from other things?

Secondly, what is Russia's attitude in his assessment in respect of the new developments because they are changing their traditional attitude on this issue? They are, to a very great extent, going with America on this issue. What is Russia's and U.S.A's response to our approaches to the U.N. Security Council, about food supplies to Indians in Kuwait and the other things for which we have approached? What is America's attitude? What is the reaction of the various Security Council members?

Thirdly,— I am finishing with this— what is now our Arab policy? There is division in the Arab world about Saddam Hussein. What is our attitude about Saddam Hussein now? Are we going to be more forthright about his invasion of Kuwait because we have dragged our feet about him, of course, there are own interests? I understand the political and other compulsions. The safety of our people is involved. Afghanistan has said certain forthright things. Other countries have said some other things. Now the Arab League has adopted a very different kind of attitude. I want to know clearly what our Arab policy now is.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Azmi Saheb, you are the next. I am sorry. I discover that Smt. Satya Bahin's name is there. Would you like to take a minute or two?

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है खाड़ी देशों की स्थिति के बारे में तो वैसे तो खाड़ी देशों में बढ़ता हुआ तनाव पूरे विश्व के लिए चिन्ता का विषय है लेकिन हमारे देश की पहली प्राथमिकता यह रही है कि वहां बसे हुए भारतीयों को वहां से निकाला जाए । माननीय मन्त्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में बताया है कि 1500 लोगों को प्रतिदिन लाने की व्यवस्था की गई है जिसके लिए 5 एयर इंडिया के जहाज लगाए गए हैं और भविष्य में वहां से करीब साढ़े तीन हजार भारतीय लोगों को

[श्रीमती सत्या बहिन]

प्रतिदिन भारत लाने का लक्ष्य है। उन्होंने उसमें यह भी बताया है कि दूसरे देशों की वायु सीमाओं से होकर ये जहाज आएंगे। तो मैं माननीय मन्त्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या उन्होंने उन देशों से अनुमति लेने के लिए वार्ता शुरू कर दी है और यदि कर दी है तो इसमें उन्हें कहां तक सफलता मिली है ?

महोदय, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि एयर इंडिया के कितने और जहाज इस काम में लगाए जाएंगे क्योंकि इस वक्त बड़ी संख्या में खाड़ी के देशों में भारतीय लोग रह रहे हैं और उनको जल्दी से जल्दी निकालने के लिए हमारी सरकार चिंतित है।

महोदय, मेरा तीसरा प्रश्न यह है कि वहां से लाए हुए जो नागरिक हैं क्या उनको कैंपों में रखा जाएगा ? अगर वे यह इच्छा प्रकट करेंगे कि हमें वहां भेज दिया जाए तो सरकार उनको वहां पर बसाने की व्यवस्था करेगी या अपनी इच्छानुसार कैंपों में रखेगी ?

महोदय, आज के समाचार-पत्रों में कहा गया है कि बड़ी संख्या में लोग वहां पर रुके हुए हैं और उनकी आवश्यक सुविधाओं और सहूलियतों जैसे खाने-पीने आदि में कटौती की गई है। तो इसकी वजह क्या है ? वहां पर संकट में फंसे हुए लोगों को और सुविधाएं देने की जरूरत है न कि उनमें कटौती करने की। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Mr. Maulana Azmi. You are the last speaker.

मौलाना ओबैदुल्ला खां आजमी : महोदय मैं आज अपने वजीरे खारजा से दो सवाल करना चाहूंगा। पहली बात यह है कि पेज 3 पर वजीरे खारजा की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक इस वक्त 5 हजार भारतीय नागरिक अम्मान में, 15-16 हजार ईराक और जार्डन की सीमा पर और इनके अलावा 8 हजार भारतीय नागरिक बगदाद और बसरा में फंसे हुए हैं जब कि आज के अखबारों के मुताबिक फंसे हुए भारतीय नागरिकों की तादाद इससे मुख्तलिफ है। फारेन मिनिस्टर की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 5 हजार अम्मान में हैं, मगर आज के अखबार यह बोल रहे हैं कि 35 हजार लोग ईराक और जार्डन की सीमा पर फंसे हुए हैं जब कि वहां 15-16 हजार की तादाद बताई गई है। 80 हजार लोग बगदाद में फंसे हैं अखबारों के मुताबिक जब कि फारेन मिनिस्टर की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार बगदाद में 8 हजार लोग हैं ...

श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल : श्रीमन, मैं इस बात को यहीं स्पष्ट कर देना चाहता हूं, जो अखबारों में खबरें हैं वह सबको मिलाकर हैं, भारतीयों की ही नहीं हैं। कुल जो हमारी आबादी थी इस झगड़े से पहले वह 1 लाख 72 हजार थी। करीब 10 हजार ईराक में थे। उसके हिसाब से फिगर्स देखिए, उसका टोटल आबादी से कोई ताल्लुक नहीं बैठता।

मौलाना ओबैदुल्ला खां आजमी : आपकी रिपोर्ट सरकार की रिपोर्ट है, उसमें किसी शुबहा का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता लेकिन इस तरह की गलतफहमी जो पैदा हुई उसका दूर होना जरूरी था।

मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि जो लोग फंसे हुए हैं, हमारे देश की यह रवायत, यह परम्परा रही है कि दूसरे मुल्क में फंसे हुए लोगों के लिए भी हिन्दुस्तान आगे बढ़कर उनकी सहायता करता रहा है, लेकिन आज यह संकट बदनसीबी से खुद हिन्दुस्तान के ऊपर आ गया है और हिन्दुस्तान के सारे लोगों को बाइज्जत हिन्दुस्तान लाने की कोशिश आप कर रहे हैं। ऐसी सूरत में पेज 5 और 5 पर फारेन मिनिस्टर ने कहा

है कि सैक्यूरिटी काउंसिल की करारदात 641 के मुताबिक दवाओं और खाने का समान लेकर भारत से जहाज भेजने का फैसला किया गया था, लेकिन उसके लिए वहां से कह दिया गया कि हमारे पास खाने-पीने की कमी नहीं है, आप जहाज न भेजिए वरना समुद्र में पड़े हुए हमारे नौसैनिक उनको रोके देंगे । मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि यह खालिस इन्सानी हमदर्दी का मसला है । मरने वाले पीड़ितों को बचाने के लिए दुनिया के मुल्कों से भी कार्यवाही होती है, अगर उन लोगों के दिलोदिमाग में इन्सानियत है तो लोगों को बचाने के लिए रास्ता देने के बजाय वह जालिम कौन लोग हैं जो कि इन्सानों की बिगड़ती हुई हालत को देखते हुए भी उनके लिए खाने-पीने और दवाओं को पहुंचने नहीं दे रहे हैं ? मैं उनका नाम साफ तौर पर जानना चाहता हूं और यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि ऐसे जालिमों के खिलाफ हमारी हुकूमत क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है, क्या ऐक्शन ले रही है ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, let me begin by saying that I have made the statement today in a mood of agony and anguish and deep concern and the purpose of making the statement primarily was that the nation must know at every stage how the situation is developing so that we are all able to share it. I was not looking for either garlands or brickbats. That is not the issue. The issue basically is that a situation is developing. Unfortunately it is a warlike situation, not of our creation, but a situation which has developed around us and we have problems in which we are caught. When I went to Baghdad and other places, that was a quest to try to find a solution, solution not so much to defuse the situation—of course that concern is there—but more than that how to get our people out. Ever since the situation has developed, I have said time and again and I repeat it that the first priority of India's foreign policy is to come to the rescue of our own people and that is why you would have seen whether I made statements about the situation prevailing or whether I spoke in public or in private, I had always attached primary importance to our people and that is what every Indian feels also. And I think this is a time for us not to blame each other, but to get together and put our heads together to find a solution to the situation.

When I went to Baghdad it is a fact that the situation was getting grave. But the response was helpful and that is why I came and reported to the House and I gave details then as to what agreements had been arrived at. And the agreement was that our people could be taken out. The agreement was that we could send our planes to Basra and Kuwait and also our ships to get our people out. As a matter of fact, one or two things I should have said and I say them now. We had one of the Indian ships at that time in Kuwait. MV Safeer. It had reached Kuwait a few days before the aggression carrying some rice. And the Kuwaiti authorities agreed that they would let this ship come out with our people. About 750 people travelled in that ship and they have reached now Abu Dhabi from where we are flying them out. The understanding was also that our aircraft and ships could go to Baghdad and elsewhere. As a matter of fact, one of the planes could go to Baghdad after that and brought about 220 people from there. In the meantime the number of people coming out via Amman has been increasing and the traffic there has been increasing. We are deploying all the planes that we possibly can; not because we don't want to send more planes; it is a question of how many planes the airport can take in, because it is not only the Indian planes that are going there, there are other nationalities also, other refugees also, coming out and, therefore, they are having a traffic jam. I can assure this House one thing. Neither planes nor human effort will be spared because this is our first priority. We are prepared even and we have made a plan to stop the internal airlines and deploy all of them there subject only to one consideration as to how many planes the airport can take in. Therefore, we are constantly reviewing the situation. And I would only submit that the House may kindly take this word from me that everyday not once but twice, thrice, we are taking cognizance of the situation and adjusting are efforts accordingly. When I gave

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

the figures and when we are deploying more planes to step up evacuation from 1500 to 5000 approximately, it is in conformity with the situation as it develops. We have even taken out the planes that we are not working otherwise, A320s. Therefore, the issue is not that. The issue is how swiftly we can take out our people. We are trying that. About 5000 people, as I said, are in Amman just now. And I have given the figures of the people on the border. The Jordanian authorities have decided that they will let a regulated traffic come in because they don't want a congregation or collection in Amman itself; otherwise, it means a great difficulty for them. At the moment all nationalities put together there are approximately 100,000 people in Amman. Therefore, they do not want more people to come in. Our understanding has considerably added to our strength; in Amman as soon as a plane leaves, almost an equal number of people are brought from the border into Amman airfield. Of course, we are giving priority to women and children and naturally also to those who are not in good health. This is one part of the problem. The second part of the problem is how to get our people out, those who are still in Kuwait and who are still in Baghdad, if it is possible, without going to Amman. The understanding that was reached at that time was that they would also let some people come out *via* Iran. That would be very convenient for us. In the first three to four days we were having difficulty in certain things with Iran, but ultimately I telephoned the Foreign Minister in Teharan and he agreed that people could come out. If there was any snag, that was because of the war between Iraq and Iran and certain areas were mined. They had cleared a very narrow lane from where people could come out. I was told that only one truck at a time could pass through the narrow lane and that traffic was being monopolised for the presence of war material. Therefore, for the first three-four days we could not use that facility and in the meantime we did send a ship there, the Tipu Sultan, either to go to Kuwait or to go to a port in Iran to pick these people up. But when we became reasonably clear that our people could move from Iraq into Iran this new posture on the part of the Iraqi Government came. Even now we are trying to see that people could come out *via* Iran and then we will pick them up by ship or by air, whatever is possible. This is under active pursuit and we trying to pursue this further.

Now, the main point comes and that is the shift in the Iraqi policy. It is not only for us. Two days ago, they called all the ambassadors, of India, Pakistan, Thailand, Phillippines, etc., ambassadors of those countries whose people are there, and they told them, "You must bring food." Now, I cannot understand the policy shiftt because they are trying to pressure .. *(Interruptions)* . . .

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: They are not putting you on par with Pakistan ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: You see, it is not a question of putting us on par or not on par. Therefore, please do not try to ask me either to say "Yes" or "No" with regard to a situation which is far more serious than what you consider it to be. It is a grave situation. Therefore, the main point is—I am not trying to advance any arguments at this stage—that they called the seven ambassadors and told them, "You please make arrangements for food for your people." This is the situation and this is the posture that they have taken. Whether this is armtwisting or whether it is pressure tactics or whether it is a grave situation, that naturally we have to conclude in our own way. But I can assure this House that we are leaving no effort which can possibly be made at this time to try to see that food goes there because food has to go there because it is not only a humanitarian issue for all of us, but it is also a matter of life and death for all of us since our people are involved there. But this posture by the interdicting authorities that they will not allow the ship, etc. is not acceptable and that is why we have started moving all the UN forums, world opinion, all the humanistic organisations, together and trying to say that this is something on which we all, the whole humanity, must come together and we have tried to put all those countries whose ambassadors were called, because this is something on which we must put all together and pressurise. We are in a strange predicament

and that is that, on the one hand, food is needed and we are willing to send food and the ship is standing loaded in Trivandrum and it will leave at two hours' notice the moment we ask and, on the other, there is a difficulty. We sent our ship, "Tipu Sultan", to bring people from Kuwait. We had to stop it half way and it is stopping in Abu Dhabi and it is not moving because they said, "We will not receive it", and since they have said that they will not receive, it is an empty ship and it is not carrying any food. Similarly, about the aeroplanes also. They said that they will allow the aeroplane only if it brings food and the interdicting authorities have told us that only if the aeroplanes bring food, we will allow them. Now, this is the situation that we are faced with. Naturally, this is a situation which is not of our creation. It is very easy for me to make this statement and that statement, and condemn this man and condemn that man. But that does not solve the problem. Therefore, the effort that we are making is that we are approaching all the international forums, all the humanistic forums, all the world opinion, so that we are able to put our pressure on the UN and the Security Council and the enforcing committees to try to see sense in this.

Well, I think the main purpose is that the world should know what the feeling of this House is and that is why I came to you and I deliberately chose to put all the facts before you because the nation should know and the nation's pressure must be mounted on this. Food must go and that is the main point. Medicines we are sending. Tomorrow, we will be able to send the first shipment because medicines, we hope, will not be stopped.

SHRI M. M. JACOB : What about water ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Water I cannot send from here.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Any local arrangement you can make ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : In Kuwait ? At the moment, I am told that it is not excellent, but not too bad as yet. But the situation, as I said, is causing concern because it can deteriorate further. Therefore, we are putting all pressures. So far as the specific questions asked are concerned, I think, in totality, I have covered all the points.

Now, about the NAM initiative : It is a fact that the NAM group met in the UN, in New York, the moment the crisis mounted. But at that time they took a general stand regarding Iraq's invasion and all that. The humanitarian issues have started coming up later. That is why we are feeling that some initiative has to be taken. And that is why a week back I wrote to the chairman that this group should be set up. I hope we can do something, because ultimately in this new era of post-cold war we have to think whether it is the NAM initiative or it is the individual initiative, it ultimately has to go *via* the United Nations. We cannot possibly set up several parallel initiatives. Some initiatives have been taken. For instance, Jordan has come to a solution. Similarly, some Arab countries have come to a solution. And all those have to be summed up together and ultimately directed *via* the United Nation. The purpose of my going to Belgrade is to try to see if we can do something. Maritime forces in the Gulf are operating under their own flags, not the United Nations'. Therefore, although they have been authorised by the United Nations to use force, minimum force as they call it, to try to stop it, but at the moment they are not under their flags. The letter to the Secretary-General was not contingent on the replies received, and that is why we moved parallely. We went to the United Nations also, and we moved these authorities and the countries which are now in the Gulf trying to stop it.

We have contacted many people. We have also contacted the Palestinian authorities. We have tried to reach Mr. Arafat to use his pressure. We are trying to make every possible effort that we could make, particularly *via* those Arab countries which are supporting Mr. Saddam Hussain or are friendly to him. We hope that wisdom will prevail and neither side will initiate the hostilities. That is our effort. We are trying to work out the NAM initiative. I cannot possibly predict

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

as to what ultimately will come out of the Belgrade meeting. It is an effort. Therefore, I am not promising anything.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra) : : Wishing you all success.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Thank you very much. Very grateful to you.

Ultimately, I think, at this particular stage I would strongly appeal in the spirit of what Mr. Bhandare has said, that this is not the time for us to ...(*Interruption*)—not in terms of thinking whether a particular Minister is good or bad. I think this is time when we have to put our heads together and put our pressure together in the United Nations. Nobody should get a chance to defeat us. Nobody should be given this opportunity. Many people were looking for such think. They would like the efforts of India, the initiative of India, to be blocked.

We have started one thing more. As I said perhaps some time ago that diplomatic bag is carrying letters of both sides, for Kuwait and for Baghdad. We are also starting in a day the All India Radio External Service for meassages from both sides to the people and from the people.

I was asked of the raction we have given to the foreign forces in the region. We have said again and again that we are against the presence of forces in this area, beacuse ultimately they harm our security interests. The matters relating to India's security environment are under constant review, and I can assure the House that we are not lacking vigilance in this regard.

Mr. Subramanian Swamy is an extremly knowledgeable person and he has a great deal of knowledge about international affairs. I hope when he talks to me quietly, he will not repeat what he said publicly that we may take sides. It will not serve the purpose. But we are in steps with what the world community has done. That is why we are in the United Nations in several things. But the Uinted Nations must also understand our predictment, our problems and our sufferings and the people who are put in that situation. We have approached the International Committee of Red Cross. They have told us that one of their representatives has gone to Baghdad.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Now, see that Pakistan has taken a clearly partisan stand, and yet Iraq is treating India and Pakistan on the same footing as far as the citizens of these countries are concerned.

SHRI I. K. GUJARAL : My friend, Mr. Subramanian Swamy will understand. Particularly he understands more. He knows more but he does not say it. He knows that one does not react in the international affairs in a knee-jerk way and one does not go by one statement and takes a position like this. I think an extremely immature, amateurish diplomat will do that and I don't think Mr. Subramanian Swamy would ask me to do that. I know he is a serious man and I know he is a learned man. Therefore, I hope he will not ask me to do that.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : What is the response of the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. to your initiatives at NAM level?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The U.S.A. has told us that they do not agree. I say it with a great deal of concern that the food situation bad enough as yet. It is something very inhuman to say that and that is what they have told us. That is why we are not going further.

A question was asked about Iraqi Airways. I think my friend, Mr. Jacob, asked about it. The Iraqui Airways planes can come. But the condition is the same that they go back with food. This is the situation in which we are. It is again the same problem. Whether our ships go with food or their ships come and go back with food, the problem remains the same.

SHRI M. M. JACOB : How can they have a deal with Iraq? Iraq is supplying their aircraft to the Americans.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : That is where the duality of the values of certain big powers comes in. The Americans tell us not to

send food. But they do not mind using the Iraqi planes. They must be paying for it. I think this point is clear. I think you must understand how a complex situ- for it. I think this point is clear. I think I have covered most of the points and I don't think there is any point which I could possible..

AN HON. MEMBER : What about the Prime Minister's letter? The Prime Minister is supposed to have written a letter.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It is not the Prime Minister. I have written today both to the Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union and the U.S.A. because they are meeting tomorrow.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : are we taking the probability of air blockade into account?

SHRI I. K. GUJARAL : Air blockade is there.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : It is not air blockade. It is naval blockade. what about the air blockade by America and others?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Yes. One point asked was why do we send a ship. I think I have given a reply to that. Then Red Cross. Rehabilitation. Of course, it is a matter of serios concern. We have to look to the future of these people who are coming back. I think that is where again the whole notion will have to put its resources and effort togather and particularly those states form where the people have not gone there. If Malayali friends have gone there, then all those States whose people have not gone and are not coming back must put in more efforts. I think that is where the resources must be pooled from. I think very soon an effort will be made to work out a policy on this.

A question was asked about Aqaba Port. Aqaba port is there. We are trying to get a ship from Aqaba Port. But one thing you should kindly keep in mind is that from the point of view of the people, it is not greater sufferance. if you first take them to Aqaba and then bring them to India from Aqaba, it will again take 10 to 12 days. Therefore, that will also be a tortuous route for the people who have suffered all the time. Therefore, our effort will be to fly out most of the people although in terms of money it is extremely expensive. Perhaps, on an average, it is going to cost us Rs. 25000/- to Rs. 30,000/- per head for flying people out. It is notion's calamity and we have to do it.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : You said you are not going to approach them for the use of Aqaba Port.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Please let him continue. We have a long evening a head of us.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I am told that it takes 10 to 12 days for a ship.

7.00 P.M.

Therefore, if you take people out from Amman, then to Aqaba, and then take them out, all the same, we are not leaving that effort also. We are negotiating with a company. Very few companies in India, unfortunately, have got the transport ships or the passenger ships. Everybody has given up. Even the Shipping Corporation of India has got only two ships, thanks to Haj traffic. And that is why those are available still with us. Otherwise, no country has ships. This is a problem.

SHRI M.M. JACOB : Mr. Gujral, I read in the newspaper that you are also permitting the Airbus-320 to fly over to that place.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Yes, we are. I think, today, the first one has gone, and from tomorrow one more will go. So, we keep on adding. We will send the maximum number of airplanes subject to the availability of facilities in the airport at Amman because the Amman airport is not of very large dimensions.

I think, the main point is that somehow or the other, peace should be preserved, that the war does not break out. And that is what we are trying. Now, I am not giving any promises that my travel to Belgrade will bring peace or whether my going to New York will ultimately bring peace. I am not magician. And I do not promise to be a magician. I have no sort of flamboyant misgivings about myself. I am a humble man and..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : But, you are an optimist, I believe.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I represent this country. As a humble man, I will keep on making all efforts that I can because that is my patriotic duty. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY : Sir, I fully agree with the Minister that this is the time that must all unite. But the Parliament session is over today. After the Parliament session, will you from some machinery to involve all the parties and all the sections of the people to manage this crisis and put forward their suggestions ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Yes, What I will do is, and I have also conveyed to some of our friends in the Lok Sabha that I will be meeting whenever I am in Delhi all those friends who are available in Delhi...

SHRI A.K. ANTONY : What about machinery?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : ....at least once a week. And, I think, either at the official level or at my level, we will be convening a group meeting to give you full information.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra) : Sir, this statement has taken two hours. Two statements are there from Dandavate-ji...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P.. THAKUR) : And one clarification.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : They are important and they will take not less than 4 hours. (*Interruptions*)...

AN HON. MEMBER : What about Special Mentions ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Let us listen to him.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : What I want to say is, the other day, even the eatables were not available in the canteen. So, today it appeals to me that it will be 12 o'clock. So, I want to know whether any arrangements, at least for eatables. if not dinner, will be made? I can understand the constraint of money. If not dinner, at least for the eatables, wil they make arrangements, at our cost?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDEEP DHANKHAR): Well, the matter has been well attended to. I will just take Desaiji outside after 5 or 10 minutes to show what I am stating here is fully there. There is enough to last us till midnight, going by our appetite ...

SHRI M. M. JACOB : You should have anticipated this. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : There are several items on the agenda. But there are some minor items which will not take much time. Number 1, there is the Half-an-Hour Discussion. What is the status of that, I would like to know. (*Interruptions*)...

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मेरा सुझाव यह है कि जो तर्क करने वाले हैं वह भी नहीं हैं ...(व्यवधान) इसे अगले सेशन में ...(व्यवधान) यह स्पेशल सेशन में लिस्ट हुआ है । ...(व्यवधान)

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (हरियाणा) : मैं यहां उपस्थित हूं ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Mrs. Swaraj, would you like to carry it to the next session?

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : Sir, what about the Finance Minister's statement? We have been demanding it. The Minister has given an assurance...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Why are you excited?

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH We demand a statement from the Minister.

SHRI VITHALRO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the hon. Deputy Chairman has...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : I am coming to that. Let me settle this first. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, 'Statement by the Finance Minister' is listed here.

PROF. MAHDU DANDVATE : Why are you shouting? I am here.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : I am not shouting for you. I am shouting for the

benefit of the others and for the benefit of those who are absent.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : I take it that the Half-an-hour Discussion goes to the next Session.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You are shouting for the benefit of the other House.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : Very true, very true.

SHRI JAGDEEP DHANKHAR : That House has adjourned.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं तो चर्चा शुरू करने के लिए तैयार हूं, अगर आप इस समय कहें ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. चन्द्रेश पी. ठाकुर) : नहीं समय की कमी है ।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : अगर समय की कमी है और आपने इण्डस्ट्रियल पालिसी रेजोल्यूशन या कोई दूसरी चीज इसमें लेनी है तो अगर मुझे मंत्री महोदय यह आश्वासन दें कि अगले सत्र के पहले सप्ताह में इस चर्चा को स्वीकार कराने में मेरी सहायता करेंगे तो मैं फिर अगले सत्र के पहले तक के लिए इसको पैंडिंग कराने के लिए तैयार हूं ?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. चन्द्रेश पी. ठाकुर) : बोलिए मंत्री जी, आप सहायता करेंगे ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चिमन भाई मेहता) : अनुमति देते हैं ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. चन्द्रेश पी. ठाकुर) : ठीक है । ...(**व्यवधान**)... अनुमति नहीं दीजिए, आप सहायता कीजिए ।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : ठीक है, रख लीजिए, फिर अगले सत्र के पहले सप्ताह में लेंगे ।

PROF MAHDU DANDAVATE : Sir, without your intervention, the Minister has given consent to the lady.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, you have sorted it out with him? Okay.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : I know what you are talking about. The Deputy Chairman has permited you and Mr. Bhandare to make a mention about the statutory Boards for Maharashtra. Let Mr. Bhandare speak first and then you can speak.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Sir, my name must come first.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : All right, Sir, Let him speak first.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Mr. Jadhav, you will take one minute.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Sir, the Deputy Chairman gave me five minutes, but I will take only three minutes.

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो महाराष्ट्र के बारे में मराठावाड़ा, विदर्भ, कोंकण और रेस्ट आफ द पार्ट आफ महाराष्ट्र के बारे में वैधानिक मंडल की नियुक्ति करने के बारे में जो है वह 1956 में संविधान में 371(2) में उसका प्रावधान किया गया है । उसमें ऐसा लिखा है कि विदर्भ, मराठावाड़ा एण्ड रेस्ट आफ द पार्ट आफ महाराष्ट्र के लिए स्टैट्यूटरी बोर्ड ...(**व्यवधान**) Yes. It is there. The constitution of the statutory Boards will take place. तो 34 साल के बाद जब 15 अगस्त को भारत के प्रधान मंत्री ने जब यह लाल किले से एलान किया कि महाराष्ट्र के मराठावाड़ा और विदर्भ के लिए हम स्टैट्यूटरी बोर्ड की नियुक्ति करेंगे उसके बाद हमको ऐसा लगा सारे महाराष्ट्र के या मराठावाड़ा और विदर्भ के पिछड़े हुए लोगों के ऐसा लगा कि 35

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

साल जो हमारी भावनाएं हैं, जो बैकलाग पड़ा हुआ है उसके बारे में सरकार कोई ठोस कदम उठाने जा रही है, मगर इस सरकार की ...(**व्यवधान**)... तीन मिनट में मैं अपनी बात खत्म करूंगा ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. चन्द्रेश पी. ठाकुर) : तीन मिनट तो हो चुके हैं ।

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : अभी एक मिनट हुआ है, मैं जानता हूं मेरे पास घड़ी है ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. चन्द्रेश पी. ठाकुर) : तीन मिनट आपको किसने दिए ?

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : डिप्टी चेयरमैन ने दिए ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. चन्द्रेश पी. ठाकुर) : वह तो घर गई । ...(**व्यवधान**)... आप अपना विचार रखिए ।

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : उन्होंने 5 मिनट दिए मैं तीन मिनट में खत्म करूंगा । हमें ऐसा लगा कि प्रधान मंत्री इस सत्र में इस सदन के अंदर या लोक सभा में उसके बारे में जो अमेंडमेंट लाना है, अगर कोंकण को जाना है तो अमेंडमेंट लाना जरूरी है, मगर मराठवाड़ा और विदर्भ एण्ड रेस्ट आफ् द पार्ट आफ महाराष्ट्र के लिए यह स्टैट्यूटरी बोर्ड निर्मित करना है तो उसके लिए कोई अमेंडमेंट लाने की जरूरत नहीं है । महाराष्ट्र की विधान सभा और विधान परिषद् ने यूनैनिमसली यह रेजोल्यूशन किया है और इस राज्य सभा के अंदर डा. बापू कालदाते ने प्राईवेट मैम्बर्ज रेजोल्यूशन लाया था और मैंने प्राईवेट मैम्बर्ज बिल लाया था और उस वक्त सारी पार्टियों के सदस्यों ने उसका समर्थन किया । उसके बावजूद भी जब प्रधान मंत्री ने यह निवेदन करने के बाद हमारे क्षेत्र के लोगों को ऐसा लगा कि अभी जरूर हमारे यहां वैधानिक मंडल निर्मित होने वाली है, मगर इस सरकार ने कोई कदम नहीं उठाया इसलिए मैं इस सदन के द्वारा सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि आज ही इस सदन में स्टेटमेंट दें कि महाराष्ट्र में यह स्टैट्यूटरी बोर्ड कब निर्मित करने जा रहें हैं ? मुख्य मंत्री और प्रधान मंत्री जी की मुलाकात हो चुकी है और जहां तक मेरा नालेज है, जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है, मुख्य मंत्री ने हमारे महाराष्ट्र के सीनियर नेतागण चव्हाण साहब, साल्वे साहब, साठे साहब और अन्य लोगों से इस बारे में चर्चा की है । हम नहीं चाहते कि विधान सभा का या लोक प्रतिनिधि का अधिकार भंग हो। लेकिन ये दस हजार करोड़ से भी ज्यादा का बैकलाग पड़ा हुआ है और हमारे महाराष्ट्र की गरीब जनता यह चाहती है कि जल्दी-से-जल्दी हमारे गरीबों को आर्थिक और सामाजिक न्याय मिलना चाहिए । इस दृष्टि से मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूं कि आज ही इसके बारे में वह स्टेटमेंट दें कि वह कब महाराष्ट्र में वैधानिक मंडल की नियुक्ति करने जा रही है ?

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : महोदय, मेरा पांइट आफ आर्डर है । आज की बिजनेस लिस्ट में निकला था कि क्या-क्या एजेंडा है । आपने उसको चेंज किया । आपको अधिकार है, लेकिन आप अभी भी बता दीजिए कि क्या आर्डर है ? आप उसको गुप्त रखे हुए हैं । यह तो कोई तरीका नहीं है कि हर चीज को सस्पेंस में रखें । आप बता दीजिए कि आपने आर्डर को चेंज किया है, जो सर्कुलेट हुआ है उसमें । फर्स्ट प्रिफिरेंस में इण्डिस्ट्रियल पालिसी थी । आपने अगर चेंज कर दिया है तो बता दीजिए कि हमारा यह आर्डर है । आप बताते भी नहीं हैं, सस्पेंस में रखे हैं । यह कोई तरीका है ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. चन्द्रेश पी. ठाकुर) : मिश्र जी, आप तो अनुभवी आदमी हैं । सस्पेंस में ही तो मजा आता है ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : अनुभवी का मतलब क्या यह है कि अगर हल्ला करें तो आप सुनेंगे । हम आपसे पूछ रहे हैं कि आर्डर बता दीजिए ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. चन्द्रेश पी. ठाकुर) : आप बोलते ही रहेंगे, तो मैं क्या बता पाऊंगा ?

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : आप बोलेंगे ही नहीं तो हम भी हल्ला करेंगे । आप बोलिए कि क्या आर्डर है आपका ?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. चन्द्रेश पी. ठाकुर) : स्पष्ट बात यह है कि आर्डर चेंज नहीं किया गया है . . . **(व्यवधान)** . . अब आप सुन नहीं रहे हैं । आपकी उम्र में भी धीरज नहीं होगा तो किस उम्र में होगा ? यह जीरो अवर में शुरू हुआ था मामला । ये दो सज्जन रह गए थे । इनको डिप्टी चेयरमेन ने आश्वासन दिया था कि जैसे ही फारेन मिनिस्टर का स्टेटमेंट खत्म हो जाएगा, आपको समय मिलेगा । अब बताइए कि आर्डर चेंज हुआ या आर्डर पर आ गया ?

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : आर्डर चेंज हुआ है । फारेन मिनिस्टर ने कहा कि लोकसभा में जाना है । सभी जानते हैं कि लोकसभा सायने डाइ एडजार्न हो गयी है । अब मैं कुछ नहीं बोलूंगा । . . . **(व्यवधान)** . . . फिर आप ये बात ले आए । आपके यहां जो कोई आता है हल्ला-गुल्ला कर देता है । अगर डिप्टी चैयरमेन ने किया तो वह बता देती कि इस आर्डर में हम ऐसा काम कर रहे हैं । अगर चैयर से डिस-आर्डर होगा तब हाउस को चलाया नहीं जा सकता है । आप अभी भी बताइए कि कैसे करेंगे ?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. चन्द्रेश पी. ठाकुर) : मैं क्या बताऊं । भंडारे जी बोल लेंगे उसके बाद आपसे पूछूंगा कि क्या करें ? तब बता पाऊंगा ।

Mr. Bhandare. You will be very brief. You see the mood of the House.

श्री दीपेन घोष (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : कस्टम एण्ड एक्साइज के बारे में स्टेटमेंट पहले ले लीजिए ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : I will come to that. It is not for me to decide.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : I wholeheartedly endorse the setting up of the Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathawad and Konkan. In the morning there was a mention and as has been referred by the Prime Minister that he will expedite the constitutional processes, now it is 7.15 and I thought that by now the Government should have made some statement about the setting up of these Boards.

I think a constitutional amendment is required because serious doubts and reservations have been expressed as regards the Governors' overriding powers which will destroy the fundamentally democratic, parliamentary form of Government where the Governor acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers and even the federal structure is likely to be distorted where the Centre can interfere in the affairs of the State, but I felt that such an amendment should have come here by now or at least introduced. This is a more important amendment than even the Delhi statehood bill. I am really disappointed and in order to fulfil this aspiration which has been there for the last 35 years I will request that the Government acts faster than it has done. This is a very important assurance of the Prime Minister given from the Red Fort and it has not been fulfiled. I express my disappointment over this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Now it is for the House to decide. We have three items. One is the discussion on the Industrial Policy. If it has to start, Shri Chaturanan Mishra is already on the legs, in the sense, he will be the first speaker to continue his speech. However, if we do not continue with that, that item can be rolled over to the next Session.

[Prof. Chandresh P. Thakur]

Then we have three items listed in the name of Prof. Danadavate. One is clarification on the earlier statement that he made regarding the budgetary deficit, which if you do not want, will lapse and if you take up, it will take the rest of the time and still not be finished.

Then, there is a statement about which there is pressure—about 'unjust enrichment' involved in Customs and Excise refunds. The Minister can make a brief statement and brief clarifications can be asked.

Then, we have Special Mentions. This is the last day of the Session and about ten names are there. Some names can be there but the Members may not be there. So it will also take some time.

So the real choice is, should we take Prof. Dandavate's statement first or the Industrial Policy first ?

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : The Industrial Policy is listed there.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : We should take up the statement regarding "unjust enrichment" involved in Customs and Excise refunds.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : आपने पूरा एजेंडा तय करने के वक्त को वोट लिया नहीं था । आपको तो एक चेयर का काम होता है न, आप अगर अपना काम छोड़ देते हैं तो डिस-आर्डर होगा ही । . . .(**व्यवधान**). . .

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. चन्द्रेश पी. ठाकुर) : नहीं, नहीं । हम आपसे राय ले रहे हैं ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : आप कहिए कि हम इस तरह से चलाएंगे हाउस को ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : What is the consensus of the House ? You want excise statement ?

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : We want definite assurance that Industrial Policy will be discussed in the next Session and it will not lapse.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Any policy can be discussed in the next Session. There is no bar. This House is sovereign. But you have to decide. It is the job of the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : The country still has democracy.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : I can suggest one thing. If we start the discussion on Industrial Policy, we will have to finish till the Minister replies. I do not know if that discussion can be taken up and completed till the Minister replies, then other items can be taken up in that case. The discussion on Industrial Policy can be taken up in the next Session immediately in the first week.

As regards the Central Excise statement, that is very important because refunds have been given. We wanted a Calling Attention and I had submitted a Calling Attention Motion. Thereafter the Minister was also very much agreeable to give the replies to our points. Naturally that can be taken up immediately .

Another point is, there are certain Special Mentions. It was also promised that immediately after 5 o'clock, these will be taken up. I do not know how many Members are still present to make their Special Mentions at this hour. Anyway, it can be checked up in the meantime as to how many Members are Still present.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Okay, I get the consensus. Mr. Jena, do you promise that the Industrial Policy will come in the next session ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Yes. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : What I am telling you again is, you decide, whether special Mentions will be taken up. . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Okay,

here is the decision coming now. Number one, Industrial Policy Resolution will be carried forward to the next Session for discussion.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Positively, it will come in that Session ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Yes, it will come.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : In the first weak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : That much precise detail, I would not like to determine. That is for the Government to keep in view.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : You must.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : If it is not, then I do not agree.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): It will be done. Okay ?

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH : You kindly make sure that it will come.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, the Government assures that but the procedure is that the Business Advisory Committee have to fix up the time-table.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Okay, then the next consensus, if I understood it rightly, is that there is demand for Prof. Dandavate's statement on this Customs and Excise refund.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT (Madhya Pradesh) : And no clarifications on that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR) : Mr. Minister.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Unjust Enrichment Involved in refunds of Customs and Excise Duties

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : Sir, the question of refund of excise and customs duties in cases where the burden of these levies has already been passed on to the consumers and in particular, the issue of a circular by the Central Board of Excise and Customs on 28-3-1990 in this regard has been the subject matter of a considerable debate both in the Parliament and outside. The position was sought to be clarified in the answer to Lok Sabha Question No. 233 on 24-8-90 and the Press Note issued by the Ministry on 29th August, 1990, besides clarifications given by me on various occasions in Parliament. However, certain doubts and misgivings still seem to persist and I welcome this opportunity of clarifying the matter once for all to set all doubts at rest in this regard.

All tax laws invariably make provisions for refunds of excess levies collected by the State, so also recoveries of taxes where the collection is less than what is authorised by law. Refunds are therefore a regular feature of all tax laws. However, since in respect of excise duties in particular there was a presumption that the burden of tax is invariably passed on to the consumer, the Public Accounts Committee raised the issue of unjust enrichment of the manufacturers as a result of such refunds. The matter was also raised in various courts by way of writ petitions against rejection of refund claims by the Department and conflicting opinions were expressed in the judicial pronouncements on this subject. There was no unanimity on whether a lawful claim of refund should be withheld on the ground of unjust enrichment and even if this was possible how should the money so withheld be utilised by the Government. The Public Accounts Committee suggested appropriate amendment in the Statute for this purpose. The Attorney General was also consulted in 1985. The proposal to amend the law could not be finalised as, according to the Law Ministry, withholding of refunds on the ground of unjust enrichment could be sustained only if simultaneously a provision was made to refund these amounts to consumers who had borne the burden of the levy. Hon'ble Members would appreciate the practical difficulties in identifying and locating the consumers who have borne the incidence of the levy and then refunding the exact quantum of the incidence of the